



## **Mayor Coleman's 2007 Proposed Saint Paul City Budget: Putting Saint Paul Back on Track**

# **Library Hours**

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### **Overview**

The Saint. Paul Public Library is implementing new service hours throughout the library system in order to provide the most access to the most resources for our customers, while keeping an eye toward adding high demand services (i.e., wireless internet access, addition of Saturday morning hours and technology classes) as much as possible—and with non-personnel dollars.

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### **Why is the Mayor proposing these changes?**

Mayor Coleman is committed to bringing our library service in line with the needs of our residents, while preserving our award winning services.

Over the past 12 years, the Library has faced ongoing reductions while the cost of doing business has increased. Through many efforts—including the almost total elimination of administrative personnel and the stagnant books and materials budget—the library has not allowed these reductions to impact, or even be noticed by, the customer. We are at the point that this “invisible” method of reductions is no longer feasible.

The proposed reallocation of hours will actually strengthen the overall health of the library system by ensuring that we are using our existing resources (staff and collections) in the most effective way by providing access to the *most resources during the most hours*. With new service hours, the library will not incur a net loss of library hours. In other words, while the hours that neighborhood branches are open are changing, overall hours that patrons have access to library resources are not decreasing.

We will also increase access to library resources with a plan to include wireless access at library sites, the addition of much needed and requested increase in computer training throughout the library system and an increase in Bookmobile service.

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### **How will it work?**

Five library locations will have Sunday hours. Those branches include: Highland, Sun Ray, Rondo, St. Anthony Park and the Central Library. This is the first time that Central library will be open on Sunday in more than 30 years.

The remainder of the locations will have hour structures that have them open in the critical after-school hours and additional hours on Saturday mornings, a time when families can often visit the library together.

To make these changes and create a cost savings, staff hours are being eliminated and those staff impacted via these changes may find it necessary to look for another job within the system or to leave entirely. The library is working to make sure that library staff are aware of all vacancies and encouraged to apply for transfers when possible.

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